

PERKINScoie

Frankie  
Hampton

Digitally signed by Frankie Hampton  
DN: c=US, o=U.S. Government,  
ou=FEC, cn=Frankie Hampton  
Date: 2015.04.12 12:09:00 -0400

700 13th Street, NW  
Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20005-3960

① +1.202.654.6200  
② +1.202.654.6211  
perkinscoie.com

March 31, 2015

Karl J. Sundstrom  
KSundstrom@perkinscoie.com  
D. (202) 654-6202  
F. (202) 654-9144

Federal Election Commission  
Office of Complaints Examination and Legal Administration  
Attn: Kim Collins  
999 E Street NW  
Washington, DC 20436

**Re: MUR 6916**

Dear Commissioners:

I write on behalf of NGP VAN in response to the complaint filed in the above referenced matter alleging that the company violated unspecified provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 and Federal Election Commission regulations. NGP VAN is a for-profit company that provides campaign management software to candidates, political committees and organizations that are engaged in political activity at the federal, state and local level. NGP Software was founded in Washington D.C. by Nathaniel Pearlman, a computer scientist in 1997 to provide political campaigns with software solutions for compliance and fundraising management issues. It merged in 2010 with Voter Activation Network which was founded in 2001 in Cambridge, Massachusetts by Mark Sullivan. The purpose of the merger was to combine efforts on new initiatives both companies were similarly undertaking. The company is an independent entity and was and is not established, financed, maintained or controlled by any person or persons outside the company.

The complaint should be dismissed and no action should be taken in regards to NGP VAN. The complaint fails to identify a single fact upon which the Commission could conclude that there is reason to believe that NGP VAN has violated any provision of the governing law or any provision of the Commission's regulations. This failing is starkly evident in the legal analysis contained in the complaint which does not even refer to NGP VAN let alone provide a factual basis for finding reason to believe that the company engaged in any conduct that constituted a violation of law or regulation. Contrary to the complainant's unsupported assertion that the company "has joined forces" with respondent Catalist, the company has no agreement, contractual or otherwise with Catalist. The company licenses its software at fair market value to all of its clients and engages in no conduct that would constitute a violation of federal law or regulation.

The failure to allege facts that if true would constitute a violation means that the complaint needs to be dismissed as it relates to NGP VAN. The complaint should be summarily dismissed and the allegations against the company not allowed to remain unresolved by the Commission. The

Federal Election Commission

March 31, 2015

Page 2

complaint is clearly an effort without any factual foundation to darken the reputation of the company. Summary dismissal is the proper course for resolving this matter and for denying the complainant the publicity that it seeks to achieve with this meritless complaint.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Karl J. Sandstrom", written in dark ink.

Karl J. Sandstrom